

IN THE CLAIMS:

All claim amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer.
Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of blocking a tubular anatomical structure, comprising the steps of:
grasping tissue on the interior of said tubular anatomical structure at one or more locations disposed along a lumen of said tubular anatomical structure and manipulating said tubular anatomical structure to form a folded tissue bundle comprising tissue from around the circumference of said tubular anatomical structure; and
applying a ligating structure to said tissue bundle.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said tubular anatomical structure is a fallopian tube.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ligating structure is a ligating band
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:
grasping tissue on the interior of said tubular anatomical structure at a second location to form a second tissue bundle comprising tissue from around the circumference of said tubular anatomical structure; and
applying a second ligating structure to said second tissue bundle.
5. (Currently amended) A method of ligating a tubular anatomical structure having a wall surrounding a central lumen, comprising the steps of:
inserting a first end of an elongated tubular element into the lumen of the tubular anatomical structure, at least one ligating structure being secured at said first end of said tubular element;

extending a grasper out of said first end of said tubular element and through said at least one ligating structure;
grasping tissue from the wall of said tubular anatomical structure with said grasper at one or more locations around a circumference of, and disposed apart from an end of, said lumen;
retracting said grasper into said first end of said tubular element, drawing the grasped tissue with said grasper into said first end of said tubular element and through said ligating structure to form a tissue bundle within said first end of said tubular element; and
releasing said at least one ligating structure from said first end of said tubular element to contract about said tissue bundle to form a ligation of said tubular anatomical structure;
freeing said tissue bundle from said grasper; and
withdrawing said tubular element from said tubular anatomical structure.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of withdrawing comprises withdrawing said tubular element completely from said tubular anatomical structure.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein at least two ligating structures are secured at said first end of said tubular element, wherein said step of withdrawing comprises withdrawing said tubular element partially from said tubular anatomical structure to a new position within said tubular anatomical element, and wherein said method comprises the further step of:

repeating said steps of extending, retracting, releasing, freeing and withdrawing to form a second ligation of said tubular anatomical structure.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said grasper comprises an elongated catheter having an inflatable end portion and a plurality of hooking structures positioned about and capable of moving with said inflatable end portion, and wherein said step of grasping comprises:

inflating said inflatable end portion until at least a portion of said plurality of hooking structures are forced into said wall of said tubular anatomical structure to grasp tissue of said wall; and
deflating said inflatable end portion until it is capable of fitting into said first end of said elongated tubular element.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of freeing comprises passing electrical current through at least a portion of said plurality of hooking structures to cauterize the grasped tissue.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein said grasper comprises at least one suction tube having an opening, wherein said step of grasping comprises generating a vacuum in said suction tube sufficient to draw and hold tissue from the wall of said tubular anatomical structure against said opening, and wherein said freeing step comprises releasing said vacuum.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said tubular anatomical structure is a fallopian tube.

12. - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A method of blocking a lumen of a tubular anatomical structure, comprising the steps of:
grasping tissue on the interior of a stretch of said lumen;
folding said tubular anatomical structure inwardly upon itself to form an everted tissue bundle comprising tissue from around a circumference of said lumen, said tissue bundle being disposed within said stretch of said lumen; and
applying a ligating structure to said tissue bundle effective to block a passage through said lumen.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein:
said applying step comprises engaging a ligating band around said tissue bundle.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein:
said folding step comprises drawing said tissue bundle through an aperture formed in expansion structure adapted to hold said ligating structure in a dilated condition; and
said applying step comprises releasing said ligating structure from engagement on said expansion structure.